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Advocate of Peace.

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The Stated International Congress.

The following private letter from Hon. John L. Bates, Governor of Massachusetts, to the President of the American Peace Society, expressing his hearty endorsement of the action of the Legislature in approving the proposition for a stated international advisory congress, was received too late for our last issue. Our readers will be very glad to see that the proposition has Governor Bates' unqualified approval:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

BOSTON, March 2, 1903.

HON. ROBERT TREAT PAINE,

President of the American Peace Society, Boston, Mass.

In reply to your favor of February 27, permit me to state that the Resolutions of the General Court of this Commonwealth, requesting Congress to authorize the President of the United States to invite the governments of the world to join in establishing a regular International Congress, have my most cordial endorsement.

The idea of a parliament of man, at first considered visionary, is becoming accepted in this swift moving age as something not only possible of attainment, but, on the

contrary, as quite probable in the future. Every effort to this end is in the interest of progressive civilization and of humanity.

Permit me to congratulate the American Peace Society on its persistent efforts to this end, and believe me,

Yours sincerely, JOHN L. BATES.

Mr. Alfred H. Fried, of Berlin, writing on the subject in the *Königsberger Hartung'sche Zeitung*, says:

"The idea of holding such a world-congress at regular intervals, as is already the case with the World Postal Congress, will probably be realized in the not remote future. More and more are the matters of international concern accumulating, and the interests of the individual states in one another being quickened. With this quickening and growth of their mutual interests, it is scarcely possible longer to think of a settlement of differences between them by violence. Hence the thought of a stated congress of the civilized states, whose function it will be to adjust the questions mutually affecting them, spontaneously forces itself upon us. Considering the amount of suspicion still prevailing between the governments, the subjects which could be referred to such a body would of course be somewhat limited. Questions of territorial domain would be naturally excluded in advance, and pronounced controversies in general would not properly come before the forum of such a congress. But it would be able to deal with all the forms of international coöperation both in their inauguration and their execution. In the spheres of commerce and of sanitation, as in the scientific and the social realms, there is open for such a regular congress an unlimited field of service."

It would be difficult to state the case for a regular international congress, to study and make recommendations on the subjects affecting the common interests of the nations, with more exactness and force than is done in these words of Mr. Fried. It must be remembered, furthermore, that the usefulness of such a congress would not consist wholly in what it would be able to do. The mere meeting and deliberations, every five or seven years, of a body of one hundred and fifty or two hundred representative men from the forty-five states of the world would be of incalculable value in bringing the various parts of humanity into intelligent and sympathetic touch with one another, and thus in promoting amity and cordial relations among them.